

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-16 are allowable. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. Independent method claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 and, thereby, correspond to independent apparatus claim 3. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 3.

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/James Edward Ledbetter/

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JEL/DWW/att

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